

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



Press Office
1325 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20463
Phone: Local 523-4065 Toll Free 800-424-9530

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
OCTOBER 10, 1980

CONTACT: FRED EILAND
SHARON SNYDER

FEC RELEASES POLITICAL PARTY INFORMATION

WASHINGTON -- In advance of the October 14 issue of its 4-volume study on spending by "PAC's" and political parties for the 1980 election cycle, the Federal Election Commission today released figures on what the two major parties have raised, spent, and thus far contributed to federal candidates.

During the first 18 months of this election cycle, (from January 1, 1979, through June 30, 1980), the parties have contributed a total of \$1,942,606 to candidates and have spent \$ 452,649 on their behalf.

The Democrats contributed \$325,655 to their candidates and spent \$163,779 in coordinated expenditures. Comparable figures for the Republican party show \$ 1,616,951 in contributions to candidates and \$ 288,870 in coordinated expenditures. *

*(Note: The term "coordinated expenditure" refers to Section 441a(d) of the Federal Election Campaign Act, which allows committees of political parties at the national and state levels to spend money on behalf of their candidates. These expenditures can only be made in connection with general election campaigns and are in addition to what party committees may contribute to candidates. The two national committees may each spend \$4.6 million on their Presidential nominees. Committees at both the national and state levels may spend \$14,720 on each House candidate. They may spend 2¢ times the voting age population of a state for their Senate candidate in that state. This limit also applies to House races in states with only one Congressional district.)

The Democratic Party has raised \$17,525,600 and has spent \$15,485,629. The Republican Party has raised \$96,143,435 and has spent \$83,086,735. These figures include receipts and expenditures at all levels -- national, state and local, and encompass Presidential convention activity as well. (There are currently 223 Democratic party committees and 305 Republican party committees.)

Both Democrats and Republicans have given more money to incumbents than to challengers, with Democratic incumbents receiving \$224,224 (68.9%) compared to their challengers receiving \$48,468 (14.9%). Republican incumbents have netted \$826,693 (51.1%); their challengers only \$487,433 (30.1%). Open seat races on the Democratic side received \$52,963 (16.3%). Republicans received \$302,825 (18.7%).

Figures for the amount spent by each party for coordinated expenditures is low. Much of the spending began in the summer months. Since this report only covers financial activity through June 30, additional information can be obtained by consulting later reports filed by various party committees.

As of June 30, the end of the period covered by this Report, Democratic Party committees had \$2,664,901 in cash-on-hand. Republican Party committees had \$17,903,394 cash-on-hand.

(over)

800 080202281

The contribution figures and coordinated expenditure information in this release include all activity occurring during 1979-80. Therefore, some contribution and expenditure information may pertain to pre-1979-80 races. Figures for 1979-80 races alone could be somewhat lower.

The FEC will be releasing updated information on spending for the 1980 elections in late October. Any financial data on activity occurring after June 30 which can be computerized will be included in that release.

The full 4-volume study will be available in the Commission's Public Records Office at a cost of \$5 per volume. Copies may be obtained by writing that office, Federal Election Commission, 1325 K Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20463, or calling (202) 523-4181/(toll free: (800) 424-9530.) Questions should be directed to the Press Office. (202) 523-4065, or toll free (800) 424-9530.

* Figures for contributions to candidates and for coordinated expenditures may be lower than reported for the period covered due to data entry errors.